



CITY COUNCIL REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION

Reviewing the Procedure for Approving Rooftop Telecommunications Towers on Toronto Community Housing Buildings

Date:	November 14, 2016
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All Wards

City Council Decision

City Council on November 8 and 9, 2016, referred Motion MM22.13 to the Executive Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Jim Karygiannis, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Toronto Community Housing Corporation Board to request the Chief Executive Officer of Toronto Community Housing Corporation to:
 - a. report to City Council, through the Executive Committee, in the first quarter of 2017 on:
 1. a review of the procedures Toronto Community Housing Corporation follows for approving rooftop telecommunications towers on Toronto Community Housing buildings;
 2. Toronto Community Housing Corporation's obligations regarding holding public consultations before approving new rooftop telecommunications towers specifically in reference to City Council Item PG29.8 (December 16, 2013) that requested Industry Canada

to amend its procedure to require public consultations prior to the installation of telecommunication towers; and

3. the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision (2016 SCC 23) that only the federal government may approve or reject the location of telecommunications towers; and

b. place a moratorium on the installation of any new telecommunications towers on Toronto Community Housing buildings until this review is completed.

Summary

Toronto Community Housing Corporation has entered into contracts with communication companies to allow them to install rooftop telecommunications towers on Toronto Community Housing Corporation buildings. Many taller Toronto Community Housing Corporation buildings now have roofs that are jammed with telecommunications towers.

Many residents have concerns regarding the effects of living in close proximity to so many telecommunications towers. There is also confusion among residents regarding the approval process for them, the City of Toronto's role and the federal health and safety requirements.

Given these concerns, it is timely for Toronto Community Housing Corporation to review the procedures they are required to follow when approving rooftop telecommunications towers, notably their obligations for public consultation. An analysis of the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision that only the federal government may approve or reject the location of a cell phone antenna should also be part of this request.

Background Information

(November 9, 2016) Fiscal Impact Statement from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-98222.pdf>